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*Silver Jubilee*  
HANDBOOK



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by Cooper

H. A. SMITH, Esq.



Photo by Cooper

W. H. FARTHING, Esq.

## FOREWORD

When asked to write this foreword, my mind went back to several years ago, when my youth whom Harold Plummer was the idol of all West Country boys, entered in the Jersey Code. Little did I dream at that time that one day it would be my pleasure and honour to become the Chairman for eleven years of a Club so famous in the West Country as Yeovil & Petters, the name being changed recently to Yeovil Town.

This booklet, full as it is of reminiscences, will, I feel, command a wide appeal, and be read by many, both in Yeovil and by Footballers afar. We all like to read about ourselves, especially when we are reminded of our past good deeds. In the following pages many will be reminded of the part they have played in the story of Association Football in Yeovil.

In penning these few lines such names as Mr. Jonathan Solomon, Mr. George Fox, Mr. Stanley Cohen, Mr. Bill Farthing and many others came to mind. It is to such great sportsmen that we in Yeovil owe much for the high standard of professional Football we are privileged to see during our leisure hours.

I commend this booklet to all interested in this great old game of Football.

H. A. SMITH

Chairman.

Page One



THE OLD ESTABLISHED BUSINESS WITH A PERSONAL SERVICE

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## Our President

The Yeovil Town Football Club are proud to have, as their President, Mr. W. Stanley Johnson, who because of his benefactions and great interest in the town's affairs, the Borough Council have thought fit to bestow on him the honorary freedom of the Borough.

The club, of which he is a former chairman of directors, and one of the members of the original board since its inception in 1903, has benefited considerably by his wise counsel and his practical interest.

Professional football by no means claims his undivided attention, for he will rightly earn the gratitude of generations of Yeovillians for the part he has played in fostering amateur sport in the town. It was particularly fitting that the after-war arena at Brimstone which he acquired and was largely instrumental in equipping for amateur sport should be known as "Johnson Park."

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# Twenty-Five Memorable Years

By RON KEMBLE

Little was it visualised when Yeovil Football and Athletic Club was introduced 25 years ago that the club would rise to win recognition as one of the foremost non-league combinations in the country. No other town of Yeovil's size has ever boasted a professional team with such a fine reputation.

In this Silver Jubilee season the club can look back with pride on past attainments and face the future confident of even surpassing the achievements of days gone by.

Ever struggling against fluctuating fortunes, foreign to glamorous clubs with their opulent stands and soulless directorates hastening for players at fabulous cost, it is the lesser-known clubs such as Yeovil that provide the romance in present day soccer. The team spirit found in the intimate circle of the club is the secret of our progress through the years.

An important development in the history of local sport was the formation of the Yeovil Athletic Club Ltd., which was registered on May 3rd 1915, with a capital of £2,000 divided into 43 shares. The new company, of which Mr. E. J. Purr was chairman of the first Board of Directors, with Mr. C. J. Sweeney as secretary, took over the conduct, assets and liabilities of the Yeovil and Petters United Football Club which came into being nearly thirty years previously.

The first step taken by the new Board was the appointment of player-manager of 31-years-old Jack Gregory, who for three seasons had captained Queen Park Rangers. Instrumental in securing his services for Yeovil was his life-long friend, Mr. Jack Springer.

When, in 1917, Yeovil and Petters United embarked upon the great step of entering the Southern League there were many who foreboded a sharp and inglorious end to the venture. It was felt that the heavy expenses such a move entailed—emphasised by the fact that an away match at Norwich cost the club upwards of £80—and the thinly populated area from which support could be drawn would soon bring financial difficulties. After events proved that this pessimism was not altogether unspotted and but for the intervention of a number of prominent townsmen, many of whom were later to become familiar as directors of the club, Yeovil would undoubtedly have ended their career in the League.

Though there was some reason for disquietude on financial grounds, there was no doubt as to Yeovil's playing fitness to enter this important League. In the old county competitions, trophies were won repeatedly and in one season alone, the President of the Club (Alderman E. J. Purr) had charge of no fewer than six.

On all sides it was admitted that Yeovil were fitted for better company than they had hitherto figured in, and a great impetus was given to this when in the first season of its existence as a mem-

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It is also important to note that the results of the study are based on a sample of 100 students, which may not be representative of the entire population of students at the university.

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After a deal of experimenting Yeovil again struck winning form, and in two friendly matches with Milborne and Bournemouth displayed the standard of football spectators had been hoping to see.

Although the present season's league record does not speak highly of Yeovil's playing ability, the team has nevertheless gathered confidence favourably with its first six post-season matches, such an experience who have contributed their share in easing Yeovil to the first round of the F.A. Cup, in which Leslie Rhizzard, Bournemouth, Bob Burton of Exeter United, Ron Wright of Exeter City, Bob Burton of Itchenor, Paul Bryant of Mansfield and Jack Hargreaves of Bristol City.

## Represented Their Country

RICHARD PEAR (Hobart Wanderers, England, 1925, 1926)  
 JAMES PAGE (Burnley, England, 1927, 1928)  
 WILLIAM J. JONES (Hobart, Wales, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930)  
 JOHN LLOYD (Hobart, Scotland, 1931)  
 ROBERT H. JONES (Hobart, Wales, 1934)  
 LINDA B. BUTLER (Bristol City, Wales, 1939)

## Chairmen of Directors

1923	E. J. FARR
1925	E. P. WRENCH
1927	W. S. JONES & JOHNSON
1929	W. H. FARTHING
1931	STANLEY H. VENTURE
1933	GEORGE E. FOX
1936	STANLEY GATTS
1938	H. A. SMITH

## Present Members of the Board 1948-49

H. A. SMITH (Chairman) W. H. FARTHING (Finance Chairman)  
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## Yeovil's First Secretary



E. J. SEACOMBE

It is thirty years this coming week that the service of Yeovil soccer was first rendered to the club, his resignation in 1930 was one of the few last 25 year Secretary of the Club.

His association with the Club began in 1894 as a playing member of the Yeovil team at a club which he became captain and in his last season 1898-1899 he was found to play for Somerset against Devon.

When later there was a re-organisation Mr Seacombe became Secretary of the old Yeovil Club and with the amalgamation with Porters & Frost in 1904 he continued to serve as one of the joint secretaries.

Nothing was more fitted to him the post as secretary which the present club occupies was created in 1911 and in this office he served with distinction until his resignation.

Although Mr Seacombe is little given to a part in the administration of the club, as he has played in too many and a experience of the game enables him to offer advice which is highly sought after.

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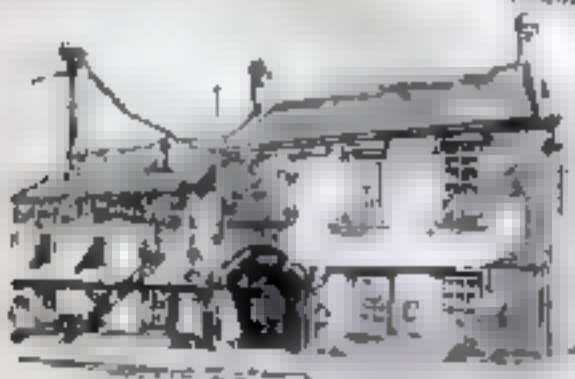
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# Silver Jubilee

The Jubilee of the Yeovil Football and Athletic Club is a time when a survey is made of the Club's progress during the period of twenty-five years.

Twenty-five years with their possibilities and accomplishments and the effect of the war years to be considered.

Difficulties there have undoubtedly been and such have been overcome by team work and the consistent backing of the Supporters Club.

We in the Yeovil & District Co-operative Society Ltd. congratulate all concerned with the successful development of the Club and appreciate to what extent the Supporters Club has contributed to the success of football in Yeovil.

The Yeovil and District Co-operative Society is completing sixty years of activity during the coming year a Diamond Jubilee and the Society also can survey with considerable pride and satisfaction the progress made.

We would like you to consider for a few moments the following statement relating to the Society's development during the past twenty-five years.

	1922	1948
Membership	3,390	11,979
Trade	£204,850	£308,130
Share Capital	£43,390	£207,500
Cases of Bread Sold	109,027	749,845
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Surplus available for Dividend	(£459)	(£22,483)

During the period 1922-1948 our members have actually received as dividend on their purchases the huge total of

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We have no Supporters Club—all our members are participants and enjoy with all other members the benefits of co-operation.

From the Management Committee representing us 12,000 members a very hearty invitation is extended to you to join the Society and having joined to make full use of the services available thus participating with our large membership in the district in the advantages of co-operation.

The Society which cares for so much of the public needs extends to the Football Club its congratulations and best wishes for success in the recreational field.

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season. Made a good recovery and planned to ride continuously for next six months.

**Perry Gillingham** (right back). First played for Peters' Reserves at Chesham on 11.10.1930. Transfer to Yeovil F.C. where he developed into a defensive player and came into the Yeovil team at right back.

**Stan Abbott** (right half). A top product. An all round athlete associated with Yeovil F.C. Western Gazette Rugby Team and Redcliffe. Joined Yeovil in 1939. A great whole-hearted player. A great water polo player. Now the Club's chief scout and one of the outstanding personalities of Yeovil football.

**Ted England** (left half). With three years came to Yeovil from Doncaster. First played at Mordenhead during 1931-2 arrived with the Rugby Football Club and was absorbed by Miffy's Works. While serving with the Forces, was selected to represent Irish Army team. Played regularly in Yeovil Southern League team. Returning from the game he needed in Yeovil.

**Harry Edwards** (outside left). Born at Radstock first played for Yeovil in 1932. Played for Radstock and helped them to finish runners up in the Western League and to win the Somerset Cup. He went to Yeovil with his brother Tommy frequently appearing in the Yeovil reserve side. After returning from the game he was tried and made his home at Yeovil.

**Bill Day** (left back). Brother of Fred Day. Another local product and at the age of 17 got his place in the Yeovil side. He was the youngest ever to appear in the side. First played as centre forward and scored many goals by scoring seven goals against M. A. and moved to left back and became one of the greatest defenders of his time.

**Johnny Edwards** (inside forward). Brother of Harry Edwards. First played for Yeovil and was regularly picked to play for the club as inside forward. Johnny Edwards was signed in 1933 for a fee of £100 and again £100 when he left to join the Somerset County team at Midsomer Norton. Arrived with the club in 1934 and played in 1935 and gave consistently good service.

For many years brought with it a spate of players from all parts of the British Isles who in the sequence of years were transferred to other clubs. These players were seen in each succeeding season to be in international service on the eve of their departure and while the players were in the football world and the stepping stone to higher spheres and the fulfilment of their ambitions.

While the majority of players with the Club was of English birth, others came from the wide horizons of other countries and eventually made the town of their last such days home.

Still with us is **Jack Valler**, goalkeeper, one of the first of new players who joined the Club 1937. His outstanding displays are frequently noticed. A native of Bristol made his debut at Yeovil in 1937. He played during his career in many leagues and clubs. He was a successful goalkeeper in the youth.

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# Great Cup-tie Tussles

By JOHN KENNEDY

THE YEAR 1925 was indeed marked by a number of events which have been remembered by the football fan. The first of these was the Cup-tie tussles which were fought with a will and a determination to win. The first of these was the Cup-tie tussles which were fought with a will and a determination to win.

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For much of the latter part of the year 1925 was played like a regular Cup-tie tussles which were fought with a will and a determination to win. The first of these was the Cup-tie tussles which were fought with a will and a determination to win.



JOHNNY HARTBURN

The first of these was the Cup-tie tussles which were fought with a will and a determination to win. The first of these was the Cup-tie tussles which were fought with a will and a determination to win.

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TEAM FOR SHEPHERD BE PLAY

The team for the Shepherd Be Play, which was organized by the team, was composed of the following members: (names listed in columns)

The team for the Shepherd Be Play, which was organized by the team, was composed of the following members: (names listed in columns)



With Apologies to Will Hay

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THESE ARE THE TEAM WHICH DREW UP THE FOLLOWING

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

# CORONATION HOTEL

## ROY BEXX

• Prelude to Stardom •

Born May 1928

Height 5ft 10ins.

Weight - 170 lbs.



Has already defeated

Aubrey Peterson (1 Rd)

Doug. Mitchell (1 Rd)

Joe Romeo (1 and 2 Rds)

Harry Smart (1 Rd) etc

## BESWICK'S FISH RESTAURANT, YEOVIL

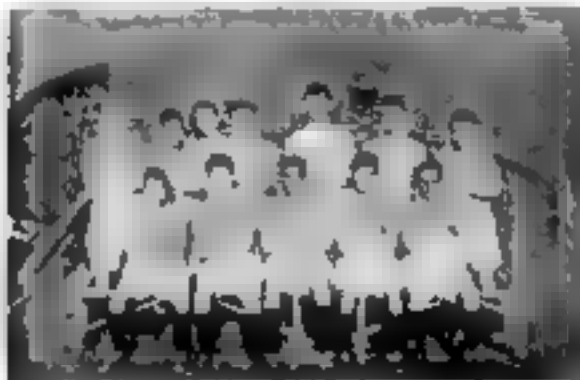


in top. Undoubtedly were gathered thousands of people powerless to move. After the 90 min. as been cleared by the police it was found that the roof had been split from rain and is the other.

After receiving an early goal it seemed that fortune was against Yeovil but in 10 minutes from the interval amidst the wildest of excitement brought George Green, who had joined Yeovil earlier in the season from Bradford scored from a penalty. Sheffield Wednesday was the deciding factor in the second half when Napier scored their winning goal.

This ended Yeovil's phenomenal run of success in the competition. Their season had been Barry Brighton and Hove and it ended after a replay and by their magnificent display they had added yet another glowing chapter to the fifty years story of football in Yeovil.

Yeovil had made their greatest bid yet failed. Whatever men were at home, most would agree that the winner of the match had a very heavy breathing, he fifth round. It will be remembered however that Yeovil's appearance in the second round some six years



YEOVIL TEAM VERSUS LIVERPOOL CLUB IN

previous when the Somerset club were only defeated 1 and here they were on foreign soil.

The players in this memorable set were: Angford (goalkeeper) had three seasons with T. Club United before joining Yeovil in 1904. An experienced player with about ten years experience in the game. He mainly with Newcastle and M. City. King (left half) Yeovil in 1904. He had three seasons with Aston Villa and was with Nottingham. W. (centre half) A local player who attracted the notice of a number of League clubs. He had left his service with Newcastle in 1904 and had not any chance over his appearance without a trial for Yeovil. Watkins

BEFORE OR AFTER THE MATCH !!

Page 1 of 1



A GOOD MEAL AT **THE GREEN LANTERN RESTAURANT**  
PHONE YEOVIL 74 YEOVIL  
KINGSTON, YEOVIL



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TROVIL TEAM FOR 1913-14

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ATS  
KETS  
Such clever clothes!

JUMPERS  
BLOUSES  
SKIRTS

SLACKS

SUITS

SKIRTS

UNDERWEAR

HOSIERY

COATS

BLOUSES

SKIRTS

UNDERWEAR

DRESSES

BLOUSES

SKIRTS

HOSIERY

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3 & 4 HIGH STREET  
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*Cardboard Box Manufacturers  
and Printers*

THE BOX FACTORY . YEovil.

Daily Mail  
 (Continued from page 1)  
 The match was a very close one, the referee being very much in the middle.

"But the referee's decision could have been different, for the referee was not in the middle."

It was a very close match, the referee's decision could have been different, for the referee was not in the middle. The referee's decision could have been different, for the referee was not in the middle. The referee's decision could have been different, for the referee was not in the middle.

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RALPH DAVIS Another Local Boy

It was a very close match, the referee's decision could have been different, for the referee was not in the middle. The referee's decision could have been different, for the referee was not in the middle. The referee's decision could have been different, for the referee was not in the middle.



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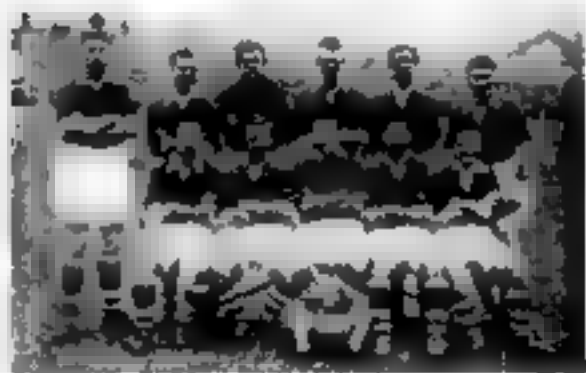
## GREAT CUP-FIT TUSSELS Continued

Yeovil supporters cheered the Staffs shipmate referee who was falling for Yeovil and there were great doubts whether the game would be played at all.

The match went on however and towards the end of the first half I had the impression that it was only a question of how many goals Westall would score. As a matter of fact six of six. Yeovil showed their fighting qualities and equaled nine minutes from the end through winger Duncanson.

In the replay at Hush Yeovil and Peters dominated the play for the majority of the game but threw overboard their own chance when Westall scored the winning goal twenty five to the top of play.

This story of Yeovil's epic cup-tie is by no means completed and I look to the future with confidence.



YEOVIL TEAM 1946-47







# Football Association Cup

Round	Result	Attendance	Gross Receipts
<b>1911-12</b>			
Preliminary	Yeovil 2, Frome 0	2,000	
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 13, Westbury 1		
2nd Qualifying	Wilton Rovers 1, Yeovil 2	1,750	
3rd Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Torquay United 1	3,000	
4th Qualifying	Torquay United 2, Yeovil 1	2,300	
<b>1912-13</b>			
Preliminary	Yeovil 9, Westbury 1		
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 3, Clevedon 1	1,800	
2nd Qualifying	Warminster Town 1, Yeovil 3	1,000	
3rd Qualifying	Lampton 1, Yeovil 2	2,500	
4th Qualifying	Yeovil 3, Bournemouth and Boscombe United 2	5,500	
1st Round	Yeovil 3, Bristol Rovers 4	6,600	£592
<b>1913-14</b>			
4th Qualifying	Torquay United 3, Yeovil 1	3,000	
<b>1914-15</b>			
Preliminary	Yeovil 10, St. Austell 1		
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Bristol St. George 0		
2nd Qualifying	Yeovil 5, St. Austell 0		
3rd Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Barry 1	3,200	
4th Qualifying	Bournemouth 4, Yeovil 1		
<b>1915-16</b>			
Preliminary	Green Wasps 0, Yeovil 3	800	
1st Qualifying	Plymouth Civil Service 2, Yeovil 2		
<b>1916-17</b>			
Preliminary	Lampton 1, Yeovil 1	1,400	
Replay	Yeovil 0, Lampton 1	1,000	
1st Qualifying	Plymouth Civil Service 2, Yeovil 2		
Replay	Yeovil 0, Plymouth Civil Service 2	2,000	
2nd Qualifying	Yeovil 5, Wells City 2	2,500	
3rd Qualifying	Barry 2, Yeovil 2		
Replay	Yeovil 0, Barry 0	2,000	
4th Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Barry 1		
1st Round	Salisbury 1, Yeovil 1	2,750	
Replay	Yeovil 1, Salisbury 2		
1st Round	Yeovil 1, Plymouth Argyle 4	6,291	£426
<b>1917-18</b>			
Preliminary	Kingsland 2, Yeovil 1	872	
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Filton Vale 1	1,000	
2nd Qualifying	Yeovil 3, Weston Super Mare 0	1,217	
3rd Qualifying	Barry 1, Yeovil 1		
<b>1918-19</b>			
Preliminary	Yeovil 3, St. Austell 1		
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Cammion 1	1,000	
2nd Qualifying	Lampton 1, Yeovil 1	7,000	

# 1931-32

Preliminary	Yeovil 11, Wadbridge 1		
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 4, Dartmouth United 2		
2nd Qualifying	Street 1, Yeovil 4		
3rd Qualifying	Llanelli 0, Yeovil 1	6,000	
4th Qualifying	Yeovil 4, Salisbury 2	3,500	
1st Round	Yeovil 3, Hayes 1	4,100	£250
2nd Round	Fulham 0, Yeovil 0		
Replay	Yeovil 2, Fulham 1	3,004	£140

# 1932-33

4th Qualifying	Bath City 2, Yeovil 4	5,000	£309
1st Round	Dartford 0, Yeovil 0	5,000	
Replay	Yeovil 4, Dartford 2		
2nd Round	Chester 2, Yeovil 1	8,540	£475

# 1933-34

4th Qualifying	Yeovil 0, Bath City 2	4,000	£159
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# 1934-35

1st Qualifying	Tiverton 1, Yeovil 5		
2nd Qualifying	Yeovil 8, Wells City 2		
3rd Qualifying	Glastonbury 1, Yeovil 2		
4th Qualifying	Yeovil 6, Weymouth 2		
1st Round	Yeovil 1, Crystal Palace 0	8,762	
2nd Round	Yeovil 4, Exeter City 1		
3rd Round	Yeovil 2, Liverpool 6	11,850	£1,365

# 1935-36

4th Qualifying	Yeovil 2, Barry 1		
1st Round	Yeovil 0, Newport (I.O.W.) 1		

# 1936-37

4th Qualifying	Yeovil 3, Chubbsham 2	4,164	£226
1st Round	Yeovil 4, Worthing 3		
2nd Round	Walsall 1, Yeovil 1	3,924	£207
Replay	Yeovil 0, Walsall 1	5,306	£283

# 1937-38

4th Qualifying	Radstock 0, Yeovil 3	3,073	£94
1st Round	Yeovil 2, Ipswich 1	6,900	£326
2nd Round	Yeovil 2, Gainsborough Trinity 1	7,182	£397
3rd Round	Manchester United 3, Yeovil 0	49,000	£3,035

# 1938-39

4th Qualifying	Barry 2, Yeovil 5	3,453	£180
1st Round	Yeovil 2, Brighton and Hove 1	8,177	£444
2nd Round	Folkestone 1, Yeovil 1	5,825	£326
3rd Round	Sheffield Wednesday 1, Yeovil 1	24,466	£1,472
Replay	Yeovil 1, Sheffield Wednesday 2	14,329	£914

# 1940-41

4th Qualifying	Yeovil 10, Dartmouth United 2	5,860	£414
1st Round	Yeovil 2, Peterborough 2	7,512	£607
Replay	Peterborough 1, Yeovil 0		

# 1947-48

4th Qualifying	Stam 2, Yeovil 1		
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# 1948-49

4th Qualifying	Lovells Athletic 2, Yeovil 3	1,200	
1st Round	Yeovil 4, Romford 0	8,600	£696
2nd Round	Weymouth 0, Yeovil 4	11,000	

## THANKS !

[3]

Football Team Supporters' Club express their sincere gratitude to the sports journalists of the press, who have assisted in the production of this annual handbook. They are—

ROB. KENNEDY ("B.L.K." of the *Western Gazette*).

J. D. VINTERS ("J.D.V." of the *Express and Echo*).

A. R. SMITH ("Yeo" of the *Evening Post*).

D. G. FOSTER (*Western Gazette*).

The Club, now, are indebted to readers who have taken advertising space, and the hope is expressed that supporters in their turn will show their grateful appreciation of this generosity.

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